

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT O 01663 141940Z  
ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 VO-03 SSO-00 /019 W  
-----141953Z 066939 /70

O 141920Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 805

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1663

FROM CHARGE FOR SCA ADMINISTRATOR WATSON

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OGEN TD  
SUBJECT: CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TEAM

REF: STATE 133680

1. THE CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TEAM CONCEPT IS A UNIQUELY HELPFUL EFFORT AND WELL-DESIGNED TO BRING TOGETHER RELEVANT INPUTS TO TACKLE KNOTTY OVERSEAS CONUSLAR OPERATIONS. WE AT EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO HAVE ONE OF THE FIRST SUCH CAT TEAMS VISIT THIS POST AND I FOUND THEM TO BE HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL, PRAGMATIC, AND HELPFUL.

2. ON THE BASIS OF OUR EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT IN INSTANCES WHERE VERY KNOTTY PROBLEMS INVOLVING SEVERE PHYSICAL SPACE CONSTRAINTS EXIST, ONE WEEK IS INSUFFICIENT TO DEAL WITH THE RANGE OF MATTERS AT HAND. DUE TO THE INTRANSIGANT SPACE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH WE WERE DEALING. THE CAT TEAM SPENT VIRTUALLY ALL OF ITS TIME TRYING TO FIND AN INTERIM SPACE SOLUTION TO MEET PRESSING WORK LOAD REQUIREMENTS. WE WOULD HAVE FOUND AN ADDITIONAL WEEK OF THE TEAM'S TIME WELL SPENT TO GO MORE DEEPLY INTO PROCEDURAL AND SYSTEMS EFFICIENCIES.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PORT O 01663 141940Z

3. I WOULD AGREE THAT THE SYSTEMS APPROACHES ARE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PHYSICAL ALTERATIONS, NECESSARY AS THE LATTER MAY BE. AS WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A COPY OF THE CAT TEAM REPORT, HOWEVER, WE HAVE ONLY SKETCHY RECOMMENDATIONS AT THIS STAGE ON WHICH TO ACT.

4. FOLLOW-UP CONSULTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE CAT TEAM  
WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. IF FEASIBLE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD  
APPRECIATE RECEIVING A COPY OF THE TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS  
PRIOR TO THEIR VISIT. WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECTED  
TIME FRAME FOR THE FOLLOW-UP VISIT, WE NOTE THAT  
JUNE 20 IS TRINIDADIAN HOLIDAY (LABOR DAY), AND  
THEREFORE IT WOULD PERHAPS BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO SCHEDULE  
THE VISIT TO COMMENCE ON OR AFTER JUNE 21.  
RICH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** OGEN, TD  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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